

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11404 211646Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
/028 W

-----066552 211651Z /46

P R 210807Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2745

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11404

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJ: BRITISH VESSEL AVON FOREST

REF: TAIPEI 5522

1. HKG WAS VERY PLEASED WITH POSITIVE OUTCOME DISCUSSIONS REPORTED  
REFTEL AND WISHES EXTEND ITS GRATITUDE TO EMBASSY FOR ITS EXCELLENT  
WORK IN ACHIEVING FAVORABLE DECISION.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS END WHO WILL INITIALLY HANDLE THE AVON  
FOREST REFUGEES. DOES JVR NORMALLY CONTACT ALL REFUGEES WHO ARE  
LANDED IN TAIWAN? IF NOT, HOW ARE THEY HANDLED? AVON FOREST  
REFUGEES SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THEY WERE LANDED ON UK RESETTLEMENT  
GUARANTEE WHICH WILL BE ENFORCED WITHIN THREE MONTHS FOR ANY  
REFUGEE NOT ACCEPTED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY. IN THIS REGARD, CANADA  
IS WILLING ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM ANY AVON FOREST REFUGEE WHO  
MIGHT WANT RESETTLE IN THAT COUNTRY. PRESUMABLY ANY REFUGEE WHO  
WANTS TO RESETTLE IN U.S. AND WHO MIGHT BE QUALIFIED UNDER  
CATEGORIES I OR II WOULD BE PROCESSED BY EMBASSY.

3. WITH REGARD TO TIMING, HKG WOULD PREFER ALLOW THOSE REFUGEES  
WHO ARE GOING TO UK TO WAIT IN TAIWAN UP TO THREE MONTHS  
BEFORE MOVING THEM ONWARD. IF EMBASSY BELIEVES MORE  
RAPID MOVEMENT OUT OF TAIWAN WOULD HELP ENSURE THAT IN  
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SIMILAR CASES IN FUTURE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE LESS  
RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE (EVEN THOUGH THEY SAY AVON FOREST  
DECISION IS NOT PRECEDENT), HKG WOULD ALLOW REFUGEES  
APPLYING FOR CANADA TO COME TO HONG KONG IN ABOUT ONE  
MONTH FOR INTERVIEWS AND PROCESSING. FIRM ARRANGEMENTS WILL  
DEPEND ON HONG KONG/CANDA/UK AGREEING ON HOW COSTS FOR  
TRAVEL TO HONG KONG WILL BE MET.

4. HKG APPRECIATES THAT ANY REFUGEE WHO MIGHT BE ACCEPTED FOR U.S. UNDER CATEGORIES I OR II MIGHT NOT BE ABLE DEPART TAIWAN FOR U.S. WITHIN THREE MONTHS. IT HOPES THAT TAIWAN AUTHORITIES FOR SUCH CASES COULD BE PERSUADED TO ALLOW THEM TO STAY LONGER, PARTICULARLY IF ONWARD MOVEMENT APPEARS LIKELY WITHIN REASONABLE TIME PERIOD. HOWEVER, IF TAIWANESE INSIST THEY MUST MOVE WITHIN THREE MONTHS, THEY COULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN TRANSIT FACILITIES IN HONG KONG OR MACAU UNTIL THEY COULD DEPART FOR U.S.

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
SHOESMEITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 TAIPEI 5522  
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